



HELPER & BAKER

NO.8 • MAR'88 • \$1.75/\$2.30CAN • SUGGESTED FOR MATURE READERS

# THE SHADOW™



SEVEN DEADLY FINNS • Part 1

**GREEN ARROW #2:**  
Concluding the two-part sequel to *Lagoon Raider!* By Mike Groll, Ed Pinnagel and Dick Giordano with a pinned cover by Groll

**FOREVER PEOPLE #32:**  
The death has unexpected time and reality as our heroes "return from forever" to the realm of yesterday. By J.R. DeMatteis, Peter Gellin and Karl Kesel

**HILLBLAZER #2:**  
Demon puppets from Hell plague London and Contraband plays them at their own game! By Jamie Delano and John Edgley with a pinned cover by Dave McKean

**YOUNG ALL-STARS #18:**  
"Iron" Moves faces the startling truth about his father. By Roy and Don Thomas, Brian Murray and Malcolm Jones

**LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #44:**  
Gardner's origin is revealed as his "people" call him home. By Paul Levitz, Greg LaRocque and Mike DeCarlo

**SWAMP THING #70:**  
The quest for the new Swamp Thing begins—but what about Abby! By Rick Veith and Alfredo Alcala

**INFINITY, INC. #48:**  
The secrets behind Kibler's origin revealed. By Roy and Don Thomas, Vince Argentieri and Tony Delonge

**NEW YORK TITANS #40:**  
The Titans are drawn into what seems to be a conspiracy of ghosts! By Steve Maloney, Ed Benito and Romeo Tanghal

**THE SHADOW #8:**  
A band of renegade-ghosts banished from the Shadow and his operatives dwell By Andrew Helfer and debuting regular new artist Ryle Baker

**BLACKHAWK #1:**  
Writer-artist Howard Chaykin presents his re-creation of the classic World War II era and his squadron. It's a whirlwind of excitement in this three-issue *Pravda* format mini-series as Blackhawk faces charges of Communist sympathies

**THE GREATEST SUPERMAN STORIES EVER TOLD:**  
A 236-page hardcover collection spanning fifty years of the best Superman talent ever! The latest sector includes Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, John Byrne, Wayne Boring, Curt Swan, Jack Kirby, Alex Moore and many others!

**SPECTRE #12:**  
A tale from a shadow from Madison Avenue and must be found before New York is torn apart! By Doug Menuez and Greg Marston

**QUESTION #14:**  
Buried alive and surrounded by enemies, The Question faces his greatest challenge. By Denny O'Neil, Denny Cramer and Rick Nagler

**WASTELAND #4:**  
John Ostrander, Del O'ne, Donald Simpson, William Messner-Loeb, George Freeman and David Lloyd continue to weave tales of terror and the bizarre

# MEANWHILE...

BY DICK GIORDANO

"It's not a dream," I kept telling myself. "It's not a hoax. It's not an imaginary story. It's real."

I thought I'd been spending a few too many late nights at the office, and had dreamed this up. But, no, the people at Macy's had dreamed this up. In their Herald Square Arcade, they opened something they call the "Superman Shop." It's stocked to the rafters with all kinds of Superman paraphernalia: watches, pins, and especially those T-shirts. (I now have one that proclaims that I'm "Faster than a Speeding Bullet." It refers in my case to inking, not driving.)

What would possess the folks at Macy's to construct a little slice of the Fortress of Solitude here in the Big Apple? They know what we know: that Superman's Fiftieth Birthday Celebration is in full swing, and it seems like everybody wants to join in! If you haven't seen Superman in the past few months on the tube, on the silver screen, in your local store, or even in Washington, D.C., well, maybe you haven't been looking.

When it comes to the test of time, Superman's passed it with, I guess you'd say, flying colors. Since that day in 1938 when the first issue of ACTION COMICS hit the stands, Superman's become an American institution. And a lot of other American institutions are taking the time to say "Happy Birthday" to the Man of Steel.

The Smithsonian Institution, for example. Their exhibit, "Superman: Many Lives, Many Worlds" began last June and will run through June '88. I got to see it on a V.I.P. tour, and I'm glad I did: their National Museum of American History expects to attract in the neighborhood of five million visitors a year. In addition, on October 31 and November 1, the Museum is giving a symposium entitled "The Superhero in America" with guest speakers such as National Public Radio's Susan Stamberg, author Penny Stallings, historian Barbara Tuchman, cartoonist and playwright Jules Feiffer, and (unfame here) our own Jennette Kahn!

I mentioned the Macy's shop earlier, which in addition to other goodies, has racks and racks of DC Comics (that's got to be a first: DC Comics for sale in Macy's!), but don't think that New Yorkers are the only ones who'll get to see a shop dedicated to everybody's favorite hero. Macy's in Atlanta is planning to open similar shops in its stores very soon. And what's the Thanksgiving Day Parade without the Superman balloon? This current incarnation of the balloon is

actually the largest in the parade, and will be given a special birthday surprise over NBC!

Not to be outdone, mind you, FAO Schwarz, the world's most famous toy store, will be doing its own Superman promotion early next year. They never do anything in a small way, so look forward to hearing a lot more about it!

I wasn't kidding when I said you'd be seeing a lot of the Man of Steel on the tube. If you live in San Jose, you probably caught some (or all) of the Superman Marathon. KICU-TV Channel 36 broadcast no less than thirty hours of the vintage George Reeves Superman TV show, as a repeat of the record-breaking ratings success they had with last year's marathon.

WIOU-TV, Channel 19 in Cleveland, plans a Superman Marathon of its own: twelve full hours of those classic TV adventures!

That's not even mentioning the prime-time special on CBS that's due soon. Guber Peters and Broadway Video are working with Warner Brothers Television on a one-hour special. The producer is Lorne Michaels, the creator of *Saturday Night Live*.

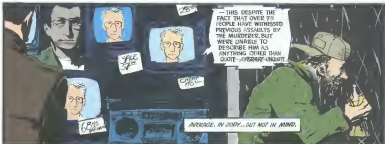
Quite a lot of the festivities planned for Superman's Birthday center around Cleveland. Cleveland is, for all intents and purposes, the birthplace of Superman, since that's where Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster grew up, went to school and thought up only the world's first and greatest superhero. The early discussions of these plans have included a ticker-tape parade (do they still make ticker-tape?), an unveiling of a permanent statue of the Man of Steel by a nationally known artist, an ongoing exhibition and a major comics convention.

This isn't even scratching the surface. There's only so much I can mention in so short a space, and not all of our plans are firm as yet. But I'll tell you this. Keep February 29, 1988 open on your calendar. I know we've always kind of kidded around about Superman's Birthday falling on the 29th of February, as a way of explaining how he manages to look so good after fifty years. This time, however, we're in earnest. That's all I'm going to say. That's all I'm allowed to say, or it would spoil the surprise.

And if you think I'd ruin a surprise party for the Big Guy, you haven't seen him when he gets angry...

Thank you, Big Guy! And good afternoon.

Dick





THE MIND IS  
ESPECIAL

RED KNOWS

RED SAYS PEOPLE RUN  
FROM HIM. RED SAYS  
HE GIVES THEM THE  
FEVER

HE GAVE ME THE FEVER  
ONCE. BUT HE DID IT TO  
OPEN THE DOOR  
SO I COULD SEE HIM.



AND ONCE I SAW HIM...THINGS CHANGED.

RED SAYS HE'S EVERYWHERE.  
RED SAYS HE SEES EVERYONE.



AND I BELIEVE, BECAUSE  
ONCE, LONG AGO, I SAW  
HIM EVERYWHERE.

AT FIRST, HE WOULD  
GO AWAY. AT HOME.  
IN THE CAR. ON THE  
TELEPHONE. EVEN  
IN THE BATHROOM.



NO PRIVACY.  
NO LIFE.  
JUST  
SEEING RED.

THEN WE MADE A  
DEAL.



MOMMA SAID NEVER  
MAKE A DEAL WITH HIM...  
BUT WHAT ELSE COULD I DO?

"CALL ME RED."  
HE SAYS.

"CALL IT A BARGAIN,"  
RED SAYS.

IT'S QUIET NOW  
MOSTLY. RED'S A  
BUSY LITTLE DEVIL...  
UHHH...RED.

BUT  
SOMETIMES,  
RED GIVES ME  
A SIGN  
TO TELL ME...  
IT'S TIME.



TIME TO MOVE.

HE SHOWS ME  
HOW...  
I DO THE REST

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FIND HIM.

LOOK, ELT--  
I DONE MY  
BEST FOR YA--  
I MEAN, TER  
CRIS'SAKES--

--THIS  
IS A  
CRASS  
JOBNT!

OH,  
SURE IT IS--  
TO A GUY WHO  
THINKS McDONALD'S  
IS SCOTTISH  
CUISINE!

IF YOU'D ~~WISHED~~  
THOSE KIDS LIKE I  
WOULDN'T HAVE  
LOST MY  
TEACHING  
JOB!

HEY--THE  
MASTER TYS  
FOR EVERYTHIN!  
SO WHATTA  
YA KNOCKIN'  
YERSELF OUT  
FER?

MAYBE IT'S  
FOR A SENSE OF  
SELF-WORTH,  
DEWITT--SOMETHING  
YOU'D KNOW  
NOTHIN' ABOUT!

LOOK...  
HOW MANY  
TIMES I GOTTA  
SAY I'M SORRY?  
FIFTY? A HUNNED?  
HOW 'BOUT YOU GONNE  
P BLACKBOARD  
AND I'LL WRITE IT--

--DOWN--

HE...  
WHAT'LL  
IT BE,  
MASTER?

FRIEND  
OF YOURS,  
DEWITT?

UR... I GOTTA  
TAKE A ~~WUZZ~~  
SAVE MY STOOD,  
WOULD'JA,  
FALLY?

AYY...  
I AIN'T  
SEEN YOU  
IN EER  
BEFORE,  
BUCCY...

LEMME  
BUY YA  
A DRINK...?

HELLO,  
RED.

NOD,  
I'M  
ERROL...

I'M NOT  
SPEAKING  
TO YOU...

AGGGKKKKK!

# THE SHADOW

'SEVEN DEADLY FINNS' / PART ONE

## SEEING RED

BROUGHT TO YOU WITH MANIC FEROCITY BY

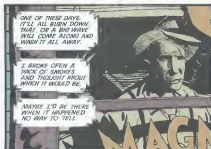
ANDREW HELFER - WRITER      BOB LAPPAN - LETTERER  
TOM ZIUKO - COLORIST      MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR

AND A HEALTHY DOSE OF PERVERSE ENTHUSIASM BY  
BRAND-NEW ARTIST

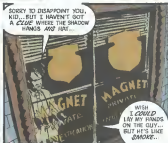
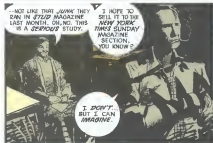
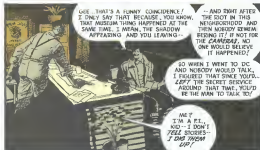
KYLE BAKER

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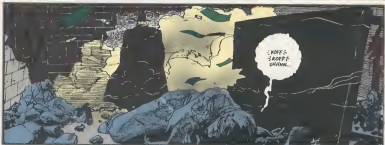


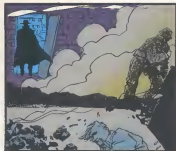
















IT'S  
TRUE  
WHAT  
THEY  
SAY...

...A DIAMOND  
IS  
FOREVER...



...DIAMONDS—  
ART... AND  
GINNIE  
MAES...

AHH...  
A MAN'S  
MOMIE IS  
HIS  
CASTLE...

AND  
HIS GOONS  
ARE...  
GOOD...



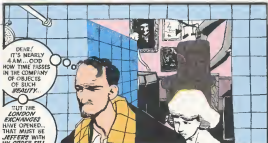
LET MY  
BROTHERS  
QUARREL AND  
CONVINCE... LET  
THEIR FORTUNES  
RISE AND FALL...  
LET THEM EXPLOIT  
AND MURDER...



I'LL  
INVEST...

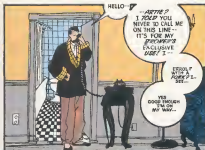
BRING  
BRING

END



DENE!  
IT'S NEARLY  
4 A.M... OOD  
HOW TIME PASSES  
IN THE COMPANY  
OF OBJECTS  
OF SUCH  
BEAUTY...

BUT THE  
LONDON  
EXCHANGES  
HAVE OPENED...  
THAT MUST BE  
JEFFERS WITH  
MY ORDER FILL...



HELLO—?

—ARTIE?  
I HOPE YOU  
NEVER TO CALL ME  
ON THIS LINE—  
IT'S FOR MY  
BROTHERS  
EXCLUSIVE  
USE! I—

EXCUSE?  
MY BROTHERS?  
I— SET...

YES  
GOOD THOUGH  
I'M ON  
MY WAY...



MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT  
AND I'M CALLED OUT  
ON FAMILY BUSINESS!  
CAN'T THOSE FOOLS  
DO ANYTHING  
WITHOUT ME??

MOTHER  
WAS RIGHT,  
I SUPTUSE...



SHE ALWAYS  
SAID I WAS  
THE SMART  
ONE...





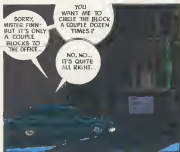
NO NEED TO  
HURRY, ROBERTS.  
I'VE FOUND THAT  
KEEPING MY  
DEAR BROTHERS  
WAITING  
HAS ITS  
ADVANTAGES...

BUILDS  
THEIR LEVEL OF  
ANTICIPATION.  
YOU KNOW...

SO  
TAKE IT  
NICE AND  
SLOW.



I'VE GOT  
PLENTY TO  
UNLISE MYSELF  
WITH BACK  
HERE...



SORRY,  
MISTER FINN--  
BUT IT'S ONLY  
A COUPLE  
BLOCKS TO  
THE OFFICE--

YOU  
WANT ME TO  
CIRCLE THE BLOCK  
A COUPLE DOZEN  
TIMES?

NO, NO...  
IT'S QUITE  
ALL RIGHT.



MIGHT AS WELL  
GET THIS OVER WITH  
AS QUICKLY AS  
POSSIBLE...



THE  
DISCUSSION  
IS  
CLOSED  
HSHU-TEI.



PLEASE  
RECONSIDER,  
FATHER--

WE  
ASSURE YOU  
WE ARE NOT  
NEARLY AS  
DEGENERATE  
AS BEFORE!



OUR MUSIC  
HAS TAKEN ON  
A BOLD NEW  
DIRECTION--

-- AND WE  
HAVE OBTAINED  
A STYLISH  
NEW LOOK!



WE SEEM TO BE  
MISSING A  
FEW MEMBERS  
OF OUR LITTLE  
GROUP...

UH-OH. HE'S REMINDING YOU  
I THINK YOUR ATTENDANCE  
WITH *MR. HARRISON*  
IS OVER, BOYS...DON'T  
PUSH YOUR LUCK.

HAYES... BEGIN



AH!... LET'S SEE NOW...  
TWITCH AND GAVEN ARE  
OUT OF TOWN... THEY SAID  
SOMETHING ABOUT  
STARTING ON THE  
*WRESTLING* CIRCUIT  
AGAIN...

...AND DAVIDA  
PHONED IN... SHE  
CAME DOWN WITH  
A MILD CASE OF  
*FOOD*  
*POISONING*...

... THAT  
LEAVES ONLY *ONE*  
UNACCOUNTED FOR...  
ANY WORD ON  
DEWITT, ELTON?



LAST I SAW OF HIM,  
HE WAS CHASIN' THAT  
*FORK KILLER*  
DOWN  
42ND STREET...

WHILE  
I WAS BUSY  
ADMINISTERING  
TO HIS  
*LATEST*  
*VICTIM*...

...AND DAMN!  
HE WAS BLEEDIN'  
LIKE A *STUCK PIG*...  
PARAMEDICS SAY  
HE'LL SURVIVE,  
THOUGH...



...BUT  
LIKE I SAID--THE  
*ASSLER* GOT AWAY,  
AND TOOK DEWITT  
WITH HIM.

UNFORTUNATE, I WANTED  
TO THANK HIM FOR THE  
*STINGER* ROCKET LAUNCHER  
HE *APPROPRIATED* FOR ME

I'D  
ADMORED  
THEM SINCE  
I'D SEEN  
ONE MAKE  
FAST WORK  
OF  
BENEDICT  
STARK...

STILL, I MUST *NEED* DEWITT ATTEND  
OUR STATUS MEETINGS *REGULARLY*.



HAYES--  
REMIND ME  
TO INFORM  
BOTH HIM  
AND TWITCH  
THAT WE HAVE  
PRIORITY  
HERE...

TELL HIM,  
HARRY--  
BEFORE  
I DO!

BUT MARGO,  
LOVE OF MY LIFE--  
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD  
A *WORD*  
HE'S SAID?

WE TRY TO  
*FIG* OFF OUR  
COMMITMENTS  
NOW--HE'LL HAVE  
OUR *NEEDS*!

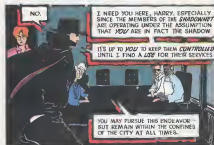


*YOUR*  
COMMITMENTS,  
HARRY VINCENT--  
I NEVER MADE  
A *ONE*!

AND IF  
YOU'RE NOT WILLING  
TO *TAKE* A *RISK*  
FOR *ME*, THEN  
I'LL JUST--



WHAT IS IT,  
HARRY...?





I *STILL* THINK  
WE SHOULD  
PAY HIM.  
MONEY TALKS.

NAH...LET'S  
*BLOW HIM  
AWAY.*

WE  
COULD JUST  
LEAVE HIM  
ALONE.

OKAY...IT'S  
O*BVIOUS* WE'RE  
NOT GETTING  
ANYWHERE ON  
THAT TOPIC..  
SO WHAT ARE  
WE GOING TO DO  
ABOUT ERIC?

HE'S A  
BLUNT..  
LET HIM ROT  
IN THE  
PUBLIC  
HOSPITAL--

--IT'S *MORE*  
THAN HE  
DESERVES

BUT HE'S A  
FINN,  
ARTHWAS--OUR  
BROTHER,  
FOR  
CRISSAKES!

I MEAN,  
COME ON--  
WHAT WOULD  
MOTHER SAY  
IF SHE HEARD  
YOU TALKIN'  
LIKE THAT??

YOU SO CONCERNED,  
WHY DON'T YOU  
JUST ASK HER,  
PAT?

NOW THAT'S NOT FAIR,  
ARTIE--YOU KNOW  
I CAN'T DO  
THAT...

SO THEN  
JUST SHUTUP  
ABOUT MOM--  
ERIC'S A  
GOOD-*FOR-NOTHIN'*!  
SO I SAY  
CLUT HIM  
OFF

WELL, REGARDLESS--  
HE IS A FINN--AND  
NO ONE CAN STAB  
A FINN--*ANY* FINN--  
IN THE NECK AND  
GET AWAY  
WITH IT!

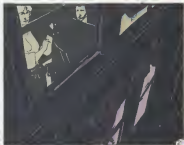
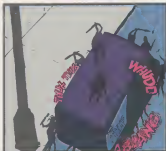
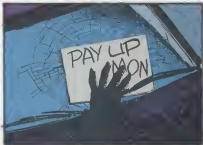
OUR MAN  
IS SOMEWHERE  
OUT THERE.  
I WANT HIM  
FOUND--

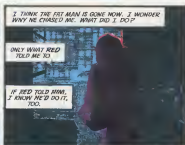
--AND  
TENDERED.

DIS BE  
DE GWE,  
BROTHERS!

I  
REC'NIZE  
DE MODEL--

--AN' I  
TOOK DOWN  
DE  
NUMBER!







NO...NOT RED  
JUST A MAN.

A WORKING MAN.



MAYBE HE'S DOING RED'S WORK, TOO.

RED SAYS HE'S EVERYWHERE -- AND  
THAT HIS WORK WILL NEVER BE DONE.



I KNOW I'M SPECIAL  
I CAN SEE RED.

BUT WHAT IF I'M NOT THE  
ONLY ONE...WHAT IF OTHERS  
SEE HIM...TOO...?

THERE'S SO MUCH WORK TO BE DONE  
IT MAKES SENSE.



MAYBE HE SEES RED?

WE SHOULD TALK

HEY!  
WHAT'RE  
YOU  
LOOKIN' AT,  
CREEP--?



MAYBE EVEN  
START A CLUB.



I'M SURE RED WOULD APPROVE.

YOU SMART, YOU  
GET THE WHEEL OUT  
OF HERE AND  
FORGET YOU EVER  
SAW THIS...

CAUSE  
ONCE I'M  
FINISHED  
WITH RED--  
I'M COMIN'  
FOR YOU!



IF HE WERE HERE, I COULD ASK--

RED LIGHTS,  
SAY--MEANS  
THIS STATION'S  
CLOSED FOR  
THE NIGHT!

MEANS  
THIS IS THE  
END OF THE  
ROAD FOR  
YOU!



YOU FROM  
OUT OF TOWN  
OR  
WHAT?

--HMM...

RED.





TOO BAD. TOO BAD.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NICE...

...TO SHARE MY  
EXPERIENCE...  
MY LIFE...  
WITH ANOTHER.



SEEING RED  
CAN BE SUCH  
LONELY WORK.

HARD WORK.

SLIPPERY WORK.



RED NEVER APPEARS  
TWICE IN ONE NIGHT—  
THIS ONE MUST BE  
SPECIAL.

HE CERTAINLY  
PUTS UP A FIGHT.



BUT HE DIDN'T DO  
RED'S WORK.  
NOT LIKE ARE.

HE DIDN'T SEE RED.



BUT HE  
WILL



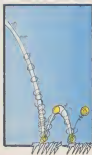
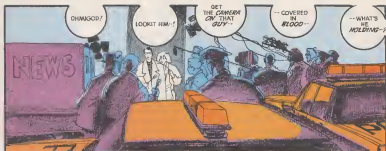
SOONER OR LATER,  
THEY ALL DO.

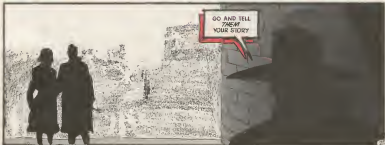
AND  
THEN..



...THEY DIE.









YOU'RE LATE.

LATE?? YOU GOT ANY IDEA WHAT I BEEN *DOWN* THE PAST FOUR HOURS?!

MAN... I CHASED THAT GUY CLEAR ACROSS TOWN!

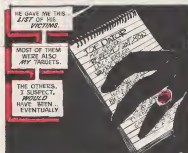
WHATTA NUT! HE JUST WALKED INTO HIS BAR AN' STABBED A GUY WID A KING-SIZED FORK!



SORRY TA MISS YER *MEETIN'* BUT A WHACKO LIKE THAT JUST *APPEARS* HE STOPPED! HE'S NUTTIER THAN ANY CHRISTMAS FRUITCAKE I'VE EVER SEEN!



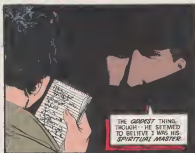
PERHAPS, DEWITT-- BUT THERE SEEMED TO BE A *METHOD* TO HIS *MADNESS*.



HE GAVE ME THIS *LIST* OF HIS *VICTIMS*.

MOST OF THEM WERE ALSO *MY* TARGETS.

THE OTHERS, I SUSPECT, *WOULD* HAVE BEEN... EVENTUALLY



THE *WILDEST* THING, THOUGH-- HE SEEMED TO BELIEVE I WAS HIS *SPIRITUAL MASTER*.



WHAT'RE YOU SAYIN', BOSS--??

THE CREEP WAS A *PSYCHO*--



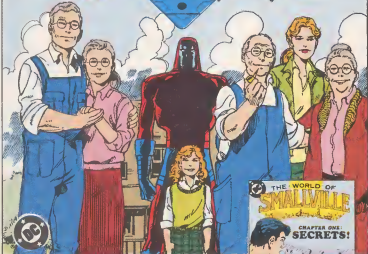
ACTUALLY, I FOUND HIM QUITE... CHARMING.

RIGHT

NEXT: *Tool for a Client*

# THE WORLD OF SMALLVILLE

THE REST  
OF THE  
STORY



**Before the MAN OF STEEL,  
there was THE WORLD OF SMALLVILLE**

**John Byrne • Kurt Schaffenberger • Alfredo Alcala**

**The second of 3 inter-locking 4 issue mini-series!**

**Coming in December**



# SHADOW MANIA

All righty, settle back and relax, gang... we've got several topics open for discussion this month here in ShadowMania. We'll be talking about SHADOW #5, SHADOW ANNUAL #1 and the Shadow/Team-up debate opened up in ShadowMania in issue #5! Sooooo, without any further ado...

Dear Andy, Bill and Al:

After THE SHADOW #5 I finally had to write. I've been really impressed with THE SHADOW since the beginning of Howard Chaykin's mini-series, all the way through the current issue. It really captures the spirit of the original Shadow perfectly, while at the same time capturing the spirit of modern day living and all of its problems. Every factor of Andy Helfer's story has so far been excellently portrayed by Bill Sienkiewicz: the society of New York, the badguys (R.I.P. Benedict Stark and Shiwan Kahn), the Shadow himself, but especially the Shadow's agents. Let's see more of the agents, like Twitch and Gwen, as well as DeWitt. I'd like to see a story dedicated to following the adventure of just one of the Shadow's operatives without an appearance by the Shadow. They all have special abilities in varying fields of interest or they wouldn't be agents of the Shadow.

The perfect team-up for the Shadow would of course be with Doc Savage. It would be interesting to see these two opposites going after the same criminal in their own fashions.

I'm sorry that Bill Sienkiewicz is leaving this title. I will really miss his work on the book. I'm not familiar with the work of Kyle Baker, but hopefully he will be an effective artist for THE SHADOW. Well, good luck to you, Kyle, with THE SHADOW, and to you, Bill, in whatever you go on to do.

Joe Hilliard

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Okay, first off, —Shiwan Kahn isn't gone yet, Joe, so keep your eyes peeled... and, let's see, that's one vote for a Doc Savage team-up... good, good! And finally, by now you've gotten a look at Kyle Baker's pencils and inks here in this issue! What d'ya think? What d'ya all think?

Dear Mike

Does Bill Sienkiewicz ever get a chance to read some of the fan mail that comes in for THE SHADOW? If not, please tell him that there is a reader up here in Canada that thinks he is one of the premiere talents in comics. It scares me to think of the genius and eupotude that men possess. While I am sure he gets the kind of appreciation he

deserves, I would like you to please give him that sincere pat on the back from myself. Thanks.

As for the writer of this series I must admit that Andy left me a little confused more than once in the first few parts of the Shadows and Light story. Ah, but like a puzzle, everything comes together towards the end. Now all my doubts are dispelled and I wait pat six with eager anticipation. You are doing a fantastic job, Andy.

Finally, as suggested by Robert Kowalski of Detroit in the letter column, I would like to see the Shadow cross paths with Batman. I think Andy could do something great with such a meeting.

Thanks, everyone, for producing such a great book.

Michael Moynihan

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T3A-0C7

Masters: Helfer, Sienkiewicz, Lewis, Lappan and Carlin.

Before I forget, let me tell you about that first SHADOW ANNUAL...

The posterish cover by Howard Chaykin feely lept out at me, so I snatched it up without so much as having flipped through the danged thing. When I finally got around to peeking at the interior, I found myself... well, thrown! A definite contrast to the stylish jacket, no doubt about it! The tale those pictures told: I Helfer has an intriguing manner with transcribing his perception of worldly headlines and Mister Joe Orlando displayed his equally bizarre, unsettling breakdowns (much like those of his famous BLACK FREIGHTER period, which a young fella by the name of Bernie turned me onto just before I left the Apple and escaped virtual destruction... but I digress...)

As for the monthly series, ya gotta helluva crew both on and in the book! I plan on supporting your endeavor, no matter who gets their paws on the title. It's refreshing in a different way and different in a refreshing way.

I'm not sure I want to see a Batman crossover too soon, but the notion of a Jim Corrigan/Spectre involvement strikes me as having great potential. Corrigan and Cramson could've met before (or just after) Jim "died" and had an unsolved case together, the loose ends left dangling in the present. Who knows, indeed?

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Although it's a natural idea, there are no

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plans for a Shadow/Spectra team-up in the foreseeable future. However, if public reaction cried out for it... hmmm.

Wustamvute...! That's exactly what started all of this back in issue #5...

Dear Andy and Bill:

First the compliments about THE SHADOW—it really is quite brilliant; the art complements the story to perfection, and Richmond Lewis' coloring in the various scenes makes the atmosphere something to remember.

However, after reading ShadowMania in #5, I feel a little anxious about the future. The reason is the idea of bringing in other "Super" heroes... for instance, Batman (or any other guy) could strain the thing entirely too much.

The reason is that the Shadow doesn't exist in a vacuum, and the world that has been sketched out thus far doesn't have a place for any other hero, introducing Batman (or any other guy) could strain the thing entirely too much.

Reading any comic book involves suspension of disbelief to some extent... it is a mark of how good the present story is that so little is required. The sudden appearance of another hero could cause the suspension to become so great that the readers might say to themselves, "This is getting ridiculous," and give up on it. Result: end of comic book.

Finally, it could easily smack of gimmickry, and is more than a little corny. The Shadow certainly doesn't deserve that. He is a strong enough character to stand on his own, and long may it remain so!

Alan Thompson

94 Norse Road

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Scotland

Well, Alan, as you can see this has grown into a fairly heated debate... and around here at the office we're still leaning more to your way of thinking. It would certainly be easy for us to gloss our sales performance with crossover into the DC Universe—but right now we prefer to play this the hard way and keep the Shadow in the Conde Naste Universe. (Alert "Indice" readers will be quick to note that that does NOT count out the Shadow/Doc Savage team-up!)

Next Issue: The Seven Deadly Finns, Part 2... where the Finns set about springing every nutcase in New York from the loonybin! So it falls to the Shadow and his troops to either put 'em all back in the booby hatch—or sign 'em up! Be back here for the SHADOW #9, by Andrew Helfer and this year's model, Kyle Baker in thirty big ones!

—Mike Carlin/Boy Editor

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